



RoboRave and Science Showdown make science hands-on for Northern New Mexico students

April 9, 2020

On March 7, more than 180 students tested their science and engineering knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork skills by competing with their robots at the RoboRave Rally and Science Showdown at Northern New Mexico College in Española.

Robotics teams (from elementary to high school age) from across the region (including Taos, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Española and Los Alamos) built and programmed their autonomous robots to take part in a range of events including line-following, navigating a maze, and robot jousting.

These competitors and many more children and families also enjoyed a range of hands-on STEM demonstrations and activities put on by twelve Laboratory volunteers and other education partners including Explora, Twirl Play and Discovery Space, Northern New Mexico College, and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

The RoboRave Rally part of the event is often preparation for teams planning to take part in the international RoboRave gathering in Albuquerque, normally scheduled for May. However, that event is likely to be canceled this year as part of measures to counter the spread of COVID-19.

"The teachers and students were grateful they got the chance to compete in this Rally," says Janelle Vigil-Maestas of the Laboratory's Community Partnerships Office, who organized the event. "After all their work on their robots, this gave them the opportunity to experience the competition that they otherwise wouldn't have."

"The students got to interact with and learn from each other, and could be recognized for their impressive creativity, knowledge and hard work."

Thanks to Northern New Mexico College and all the organizations that played a part in making the day such a success.

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